

# Union Calendar No. 407

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4490

[Report No. 113–541]

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2014

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. SALMON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JULY 18, 2014

Additional sponsors: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. JONES

JULY 18, 2014

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 28, 2014]

# **A BILL**

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of  
United States international communications, and for  
other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4        (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*  
 5        *“United States International Communications Reform Act*  
 6        *of 2014”.*

7        (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*  
 8        *this Act is as follows:*

*Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.*

*Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.*

*Sec. 3. Purposes.*

*Sec. 4. Definitions.*

*Sec. 5. Broadcasting standards.*

*Sec. 6. Eligible broadcast areas.*

**TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY**

*Subtitle A—Establishment of the United States International Communications  
Agency*

*Sec. 101. Existence within the executive branch.*

*Sec. 102. Establishment of the Board of the United States International Commu-  
nications Agency.*

*Sec. 103. Authorities and duties of the Board of the United States International  
Communications Agency.*

*Sec. 104. Establishment of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-  
national Communications Agency.*

*Sec. 105. Authorities and duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the United  
States International Communications Agency.*

*Sec. 106. Role of the Secretary of State.*

*Sec. 107. Role of the Inspector General.*

*Sec. 108. Enhanced coordination between United States International Commu-  
nications Agency and the Freedom News Network; Program con-  
tent sharing; Grantee independence.*

*Sec. 109. Enhanced coordination among the United States International Commu-  
nications Agency, the Freedom News Network, and the Depart-  
ment of State; Freedom News Network independence.*

*Sec. 110. Grants to the Freedom News Network.*

*Sec. 111. Other personnel and compensation limitations.*

*Sec. 112. Reporting requirements of the United States International Communica-  
tions Agency.*

*Subtitle B—The Voice of America*

*Sec. 121. Sense of Congress.*

*Sec. 122. Principles of the Voice of America.*

*Sec. 123. Duties and responsibilities of the Voice of America.*

*Sec. 124. Limitation on Voice of America news, programming, and content; Exception for broadcasting to Cuba.*

*Sec. 125. Director of Voice of America.*

#### *Subtitle C—General Provisions*

*Sec. 131. Federal agency coordination in support of United States public diplomacy.*

*Sec. 132. Federal agency assistance and coordination with the United States International Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network during international broadcast surges.*

*Sec. 133. Freedom News Network right of first refusal in instances of Federal disposal of radio or television broadcast transmission facilities or equipment.*

*Sec. 134. Repeal of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994.*

*Sec. 135. Effective date.*

### *TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK*

*Sec. 201. Sense of Congress.*

#### *Subtitle A—Consolidation of Existing Grantee Organizations*

*Sec. 211. Formation of the Freedom News Network from existing grantees.*

*Sec. 212. Mission of the Freedom News Network.*

*Sec. 213. Standards and principles of the Freedom News Network.*

#### *Subtitle B—Organization of the Freedom News Network*

*Sec. 221. Governance of the Freedom News Network.*

*Sec. 222. Budget of the Freedom News Network.*

*Sec. 223. Assistance from other Government agencies.*

*Sec. 224. Reports by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of State; Audits by GAO.*

*Sec. 225. Amendments to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948.*

### *TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS*

*Sec. 301. Preservation of United States national security objectives.*

## **1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

**2 Congress finds and declares the following:**

**3 (1) United States international broadcasting ex-**  
**4 ists to advance the United States' interests and values**  
**5 by presenting accurate, objective, and comprehensive**  
**6 news and information, which is the foundation for**

1       *democratic governance, to societies that lack a free*  
2       *media.*

3               *(2) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of*  
4       *Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right*  
5       *to freedom of opinion and expression”, and that “this*  
6       *right includes freedom to hold opinions without inter-*  
7       *ference and to seek, receive and impart information*  
8       *and ideas through any media and regardless of fron-*  
9       *tiers”.*

10              *(3) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified*  
11       *before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House*  
12       *of Representatives on January 23, 2013, that the*  
13       *Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) “is prac-*  
14       *tically a defunct agency in terms of its capacity to*  
15       *be able to tell a message around the world. So we’re*  
16       *abdicating the ideological arena and need to get back*  
17       *into it.”.*

18              *(4) The BBG, which was created by Congress to*  
19       *oversee the United States’ international broadcasting*  
20       *in the wake of the Cold War, has, because of struc-*  
21       *tural and managerial issues, had limited success to*  
22       *date in both coordinating the various components of*  
23       *the international broadcasting framework and man-*  
24       *aging the day-to-day operations of the Federal compo-*  
25       *nents of the international broadcasting framework.*

1           (5) *The lack of regular attendance by board*  
2           *members and a periodic inability to form a quorum*  
3           *have plagued the BBG and, as a result, it has been*  
4           *functionally incapable of running the agency.*

5           (6) *The board of governors has only achieved the*  
6           *full slate of all nine governors for seven of its 17 years*  
7           *of existence, which highlights the difficulties of con-*  
8           *firming and retaining governors under the current*  
9           *structure.*

10          (7) *Both the Department of State's Office of In-*  
11          *spector General and the Government Accountability*  
12          *Office have issued reports which outline a severely*  
13          *dysfunctional organizational structure of the Broad-*  
14          *casting Board of Governors.*

15          (8) *The Inspector General of the Department of*  
16          *State concluded in its January 2013 report that dys-*  
17          *function of the BBG stems from "a flawed legislative*  
18          *structure and acute internal dissension".*

19          (9) *The Inspector General of the Department of*  
20          *State also found that the BBG's structure of nine*  
21          *part-time members "cannot effectively supervise all*  
22          *United States Government-supported, civilian inter-*  
23          *national broadcasting", and its involvement in day-*  
24          *to-day operations has impeded normal management*  
25          *functions.*

1           (10) *The Government Accountability Office re-*  
2           *port determined that there was significant overlap*  
3           *among the BBG’s languages services, and that the*  
4           *BBG did not systematically consider the financial*  
5           *cost of overlap.*

6           (11) *According to the Office of the Inspector Gen-*  
7           *eral, the BBG’s Office of Contracts is not in compli-*  
8           *ance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation, lacks*  
9           *appropriate contract oversight, and violates the Anti-*  
10          *Deficiency Act. The Office of the Inspector General*  
11          *also determined that the Broadcasting Board of Gov-*  
12          *ernors has not adequately performed full and open*  
13          *competitions or price determinations, has entered into*  
14          *hundreds of personal service contracts without statu-*  
15          *tory authority, and contractors regularly work with-*  
16          *out valid contracts in place.*

17          (12) *The size and make-up of the BBG workforce*  
18          *should be closely examined, given the agency’s broader*  
19          *broadcasting and technical mission, as well as chang-*  
20          *ing media technologies.*

21          (13) *The BBG should be structured to ensure*  
22          *that more taxpayer dollars are dedicated to the sub-*  
23          *stantive, broadcasting, and information-related ele-*  
24          *ments of the agency’s mission.*

1           (14) *The lack of a coherent and well defined mis-*  
2           *sion of the Voice of America has led to programming*  
3           *that duplicates the efforts of the Office of Cuba Broad-*  
4           *casting, Radio Free Asia, RFE/RL, Incorporated,*  
5           *and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-*  
6           *porated that results in inefficient use of tax-payer*  
7           *funding.*

8           (15) *The annual survey conducted by the “Part-*  
9           *nership for Public Service” consistently ranks the*  
10          *Broadcasting Board of Governors at or near the bot-*  
11          *tom of all Federal agencies in terms of “overall best*  
12          *places to work” and “the extent to which employees*  
13          *feel their skills and talents are used effectively”. The*  
14          *consistency of these low scores point to structural, cul-*  
15          *tural, and functional problems at the Broadcasting*  
16          *Board of Governors.*

17          (16) *The Federal and non-Federal organizations*  
18          *that comprise the United States international broad-*  
19          *casting framework have different, yet complementary,*  
20          *missions that necessitate coordination at all levels of*  
21          *management.*

22          (17) *The Broadcasting Board of Governors has*  
23          *an overabundance of senior civil service positions, de-*  
24          *finied here as full-time employees encumbering GS-14*



1        *and GS-15 positions on the General Schedule pay*  
2        *scale.*

3            *(18) United States international broadcasting*  
4        *should seek to leverage public-private partnerships,*  
5        *including the licensing of content and the use of tech-*  
6        *nology owned or operated by non-governmental*  
7        *sources, where possible to expand outreach capacity.*

8            *(19) Shortwave broadcasting has been an impor-*  
9        *tant method of communication that should be utilized*  
10       *in regions as a component of United States inter-*  
11       *national broadcasting where a critical need for the*  
12       *platform exists.*

13           *(20) Congressional action is necessary at this*  
14       *time to improve international broadcasting oper-*  
15       *ations, strengthen the United States' public diplo-*  
16       *macy efforts, enhance the grantee surrogate broad-*  
17       *casting effort, restore focus to news, programming,*  
18       *and content, and maximize the value of Federal and*  
19       *non-Federal resources that are dedicated to public di-*  
20       *plomacy and international broadcasting.*

21    **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

22        *The purposes of this Act are as follows:*

23            *(1) To provide objective, accurate, credible, and*  
24        *comprehensive news and information to societies that*  
25        *lack freedom of expression and information.*

1           (2) *To improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and*  
 2           *flexibility of United States international broadcasting*  
 3           *to allow it to adapt to constantly changing political*  
 4           *and media environments through clarification of mis-*  
 5           *sions, improved coordination, and organizational re-*  
 6           *structuring.*

7           (3) *To coordinate the complementary efforts of*  
 8           *the Department of State and United States inter-*  
 9           *national broadcasting.*

10          (4) *To create a United States international*  
 11          *broadcasting framework that more effectively leverages*  
 12          *the broadcasting tools available and creates speciali-*  
 13          *zation of expertise in mission oriented programming,*  
 14          *while minimizing waste and inefficiency.*

15          (5) *To improve United States international*  
 16          *broadcasting workforce effectiveness, security, and sat-*  
 17          *isfaction.*

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19       *In this Act:*

20           (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*  
 21           *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*  
 22           *tees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the*  
 23           *House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign*  
 24           *Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropria-*

1        *tions of the House of Representatives, and the Com-*  
2        *mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.*

3            (2) *GRANTEE.*—*The term “grantee” means the*  
4        *non-Federal organization described in section*  
5        *501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and*  
6        *exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code as*  
7        *of day before the date of the enactment of this Act*  
8        *that receives Federal funding from the Broadcasting*  
9        *Board of Governors, and includes Radio Free Asia,*  
10       *RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Middle East Broad-*  
11       *casting Networks, Incorporated.*

12           (3) *FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.*—*The term*  
13        *“Freedom News Network” refers to the non-Federal*  
14        *organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the In-*  
15        *ternal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax*  
16        *under section 501(a) of such Code that would receive*  
17        *Federal funding and be responsible for promoting*  
18        *democratic freedoms and free media operations for*  
19        *foreign audiences in societies that lack freedom of ex-*  
20        *pression and information, and consisting of the con-*  
21        *solidation of the grantee in accordance with section*  
22        *211.*

23           (4) *PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.*—*The term “public di-*  
24        *plomacy” means the effort to achieve broad United*  
25        *States foreign policy goals and objectives, advance na-*

1        *tional interests, and enhance national security by in-*  
2        *forming and influencing foreign publics and by ex-*  
3        *panding and strengthening the relationship between*  
4        *the people and Government of the United States and*  
5        *citizens of other countries.*

6        **SEC. 5. BROADCASTING STANDARDS.**

7        *United States international broadcasting shall incor-*  
8        *porate the following standards into all of its broadcasting*  
9        *efforts:*

10            (1) *Be consistent with the broad foreign policy*  
11            *objectives of the United States.*

12            (2) *Be consistent with the international tele-*  
13            *communications policies and treaty obligations of the*  
14            *United States.*

15            (3) *Not duplicate the activities of private United*  
16            *States broadcasters.*

17            (4) *Be conducted in accordance with the highest*  
18            *professional standards of broadcast journalism while*  
19            *remaining consistent with and supportive of the*  
20            *broad foreign policy objectives of the United States.*

21            (5) *Be based on reliable, research-based informa-*  
22            *tion, both quantitative and qualitative, about its po-*  
23            *tential audience.*

24            (6) *Be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-*  
25            *nificant audience.*

1           (7) *Promote freedom of expression, religion, and*  
2           *respect for human rights and human equality.*

3   **SEC. 6. ELIGIBLE BROADCAST AREAS.**

4           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Board of the United States*  
5           *International Communications Agency and the Board of*  
6           *the Freedom News Network, in consultation with the Sec-*  
7           *retary of State, shall ensure that United States inter-*  
8           *national broadcasting is conducted only to countries and*  
9           *regions that—*

10           (1) *lack democratic rule, or the indicia of demo-*  
11           *cratic rule, such as demonstrable proof of free and*  
12           *fair elections;*

13           (2) *lack the legal and political environment that*  
14           *allows media organizations and journalists to operate*  
15           *free from government-led or permitted harassment, in-*  
16           *timidation, retribution, and from economic impedi-*  
17           *ments to the development, production, and dissemina-*  
18           *tion of news and related programming and content;*

19           (3) *lack established, domestic, and widely acces-*  
20           *sible media that provide accurate, objective, and com-*  
21           *prehensive news and related programming and con-*  
22           *tent; and*

23           (4) *by virtue of the criteria described in this sub-*  
24           *section, would benefit the national security and re-*  
25           *lated interests of the United States, and the safety*

1        *and security of United States citizens at home and*  
 2        *abroad.*

3        (b) *EXCEPTION.—The United States International*  
 4        *Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network*  
 5        *may broadcast to countries that fall outside of the criteria*  
 6        *described in subsection (a) if the Chief Executive Officer*  
 7        *of the Agency and the Freedom News Network, in consulta-*  
 8        *tion with the Secretary of State, determine it is in the na-*  
 9        *tional security interest of the United States, or in the inter-*  
 10       *ests of preserving the safety and security of United States*  
 11       *citizens at home and abroad, to do so.*

12       ***TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, OR-***  
 13       ***GANIZATION, AND MANAGE-***  
 14       ***MENT OF THE UNITED***  
 15       ***STATES INTERNATIONAL***  
 16       ***COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY***  
 17       ***Subtitle A—Establishment of the***  
 18       ***United States International***  
 19       ***Communications Agency***

20       ***SEC. 101. EXISTENCE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.***

21       *There is hereby established a single Federal organiza-*  
 22       *tion consisting of the Voice of America and the offices that*  
 23       *constitute the International Broadcasting Bureau and re-*  
 24       *ferred to hereafter as the “United States International Com-*  
 25       *munications Agency”, which shall exist within the executive*

1 *branch of Government as an independent establishment de-*  
 2 *scribed in section 104 of title 5, United States Code.*

3 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED**  
 4 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 5 **AGENCY.**

6 *(a) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED*  
 7 *STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.—*

8 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board (in this section re-*  
 9 *ferred to as the “Board”) of the United States Inter-*  
 10 *national Communications Agency shall consist of*  
 11 *nine members, as follows:*

12 *(A) Eight voting members who shall be ap-*  
 13 *pointed by the President, by and with the advice*  
 14 *and consent of the Senate.*

15 *(B) The Secretary of State, who shall also*  
 16 *be a voting member.*

17 *(2) CHAIR.—The President shall appoint one*  
 18 *member (other than the Secretary of State) as Chair*  
 19 *of the Board, by and with the advice and consent of*  
 20 *the Senate.*

21 *(3) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Exclusive of the*  
 22 *Secretary of State, not more than four members of the*  
 23 *Board shall be of the same political party.*

24 *(4) RETENTION OF EXISTING BBG MEMBERS.—*  
 25 *The presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed*

1        *members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors*  
2        *serving as of the date of the enactment of this Act*  
3        *shall constitute the Board of the United States Inter-*  
4        *national Communications Agency and hold office the*  
5        *remainder of their original terms of office without re-*  
6        *appointment to the Board.*

7        *(b) TERM OF OFFICE.—The term of office of each mem-*  
8        *ber of the Board shall be three years, except that the Sec-*  
9        *retary of State shall remain a member of the Board during*  
10       *the Secretary's term of service. Of the other eight voting*  
11       *members, the initial terms of office of two members shall*  
12       *be one year, and the initial terms of office of three other*  
13       *members shall be two years, as determined by the President.*  
14       *The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and*  
15       *consent of the Senate, Board members to fill vacancies oc-*  
16       *curing prior to the expiration of a term, in which case*  
17       *the members so appointed shall serve for the remainder of*  
18       *such term. Members may not serve beyond their terms.*  
19       *When there is no Secretary of State, the Acting Secretary*  
20       *of State shall serve as a member of the Board until a Sec-*  
21       *retary is appointed.*

22       *(c) SELECTION OF BOARD.—Members of the Board*  
23       *shall be citizens of the United States who are not regular*  
24       *full-time employees of the United States Government. Such*  
25       *members shall be selected by the President from among citi-*



1 *zens distinguished in the fields of public diplomacy, mass*  
2 *communications, print, broadcast media, or foreign affairs.*

3       (d) *COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board, while at-*  
4 *tending meetings of the Board or while engaged in duties*  
5 *relating to such meetings or in other activities of the Board*  
6 *pursuant to this section (including travel time) shall be en-*  
7 *titled to receive compensation equal to the daily equivalent*  
8 *of the compensation prescribed for level IV of the Executive*  
9 *Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.*  
10 *While away from their homes or regular places of business,*  
11 *members of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, in-*  
12 *cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with*  
13 *section 5703 of such title for persons in the Government*  
14 *service employed intermittently. The Secretary of State*  
15 *shall not be entitled to any compensation under this chap-*  
16 *ter.*

17       (e) *DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Board shall be made*  
18 *by majority vote, a quorum being present. A quorum shall*  
19 *consist of a majority of members then serving at the time*  
20 *a decision of the Board is made.*

21       (f) *TRANSPARENCY.—The Board of the United States*  
22 *International Communications Agency shall adhere to the*  
23 *provisions specified in the Government in the Sunshine Act*  
24 *(Public Law 94–409).*

1 **SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF**  
2 **THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COM-**  
3 **MUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 *The Board of the United States International Commu-*  
5 *nications Agency shall have the following authorities:*

6 *(1) To review and evaluate the mission and op-*  
7 *eration of, and to assess the quality, effectiveness, and*  
8 *professional integrity of, all programming produced*  
9 *by the United States International Communications*  
10 *Agency to ensure alignment with the broad foreign*  
11 *policy objectives of the United States.*

12 *(2) To ensure that broadcasting of the United*  
13 *States International Communications Agency is con-*  
14 *ducted in accordance with the standards specified in*  
15 *section 5.*

16 *(3) To review, evaluate, and recommend to the*  
17 *Chief Executive of the United States International*  
18 *Communications Agency, at least annually, in con-*  
19 *sultation with the Secretary of State, the necessity of*  
20 *adding or deleting of language services of the Agency.*

21 *(4) To submit to the President and Congress an*  
22 *annual report which summarizes and evaluates ac-*  
23 *tivities of the United States International Commu-*  
24 *nications Agency described in this title.*

1 **SEC. 104. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFI-**  
2 **CER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
3 **COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There shall be a Chief Executive Of-*  
5 *ficer of the United States International Communications*  
6 *Agency, appointed by the Board of the Agency for a five-*  
7 *year term, renewable at the Board's discretion, and subject*  
8 *to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing*  
9 *appointments, classification, and compensation.*

10 (b) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—*The Chief Executive Officer*  
11 *shall be selected from among United States citizens with*  
12 *two or more of the following qualifications:*

13 (1) *A distinguished career in managing a large*  
14 *organization or Federal agency.*

15 (2) *Experience in the field of mass communica-*  
16 *tions, print, or broadcast media.*

17 (3) *Experience in foreign affairs or international*  
18 *relations.*

19 (4) *Experience in directing United States public*  
20 *diplomacy programs.*

21 (c) *TERMINATION AND TRANSFER.*—*Immediately upon*  
22 *appointment of the Chief Executive Officer under subsection*  
23 *(a), the Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau*  
24 *shall be terminated, and all of the responsibilities and au-*  
25 *thorities of the Director shall be transferred to and assumed*  
26 *by the Chief Executive Officer.*

1       (d) *REMOVAL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.*—The  
 2 *Chief Executive Officer under subsection (a) may be re-*  
 3 *moved upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members of*  
 4 *the Board of the United States International Communica-*  
 5 *tions Agency then serving.*

6       (e) *COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFI-*  
 7 *CER.*—Any *Chief Executive Officer of the United States*  
 8 *International Communications Agency hired after the date*  
 9 *of the enactment of this Act, shall be eligible to receive com-*  
 10 *pensation up to an annual rate of pay equivalent to level*  
 11 *I of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,*  
 12 *United States Code.*

13 **SEC. 105. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF EXECU-**  
 14 **TIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES**  
 15 **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

16       (a) *DUTIES.*—The *Chief Executive Officer under sec-*  
 17 *tion 104 shall direct operations of the United States Inter-*  
 18 *national Communications Agency and shall have the fol-*  
 19 *lowing non-delegable authorities, subject to the supervision*  
 20 *of the Board of the United States International Commu-*  
 21 *nications Agency:*

22           (1) *To supervise all Federal broadcasting activi-*  
 23 *ties conducted pursuant to title V of the United States*  
 24 *Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948*

1       (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) and the Voice of America as  
2       described in subtitle B of title I of this Act.

3           (2) To make and ensure compliance with the  
4       terms and conditions of the grant agreement in ac-  
5       cordance with section 110.

6           (3) To review engineering activities to ensure  
7       that all broadcasting elements receive the highest  
8       quality and cost-effective delivery services.

9           (4) To undertake such studies as may be nec-  
10      essary to identify areas in which broadcasting activi-  
11      ties under the authority of the United States Inter-  
12      national Communications Agency could be made  
13      more efficient and economical.

14          (5) To the extent considered necessary to carry  
15      out the functions of the Board, procure supplies, serv-  
16      ices, and other personal property, as well as procure-  
17      ment pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United  
18      States Code (commonly referred to as the “Economy  
19      Act”), of such goods and services from other Federal  
20      agencies for the Board as the Board determines are  
21      appropriate.

22          (6) To appoint such staff personnel for the Board  
23      as the Board may determine to be necessary, subject  
24      to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, gov-  
25      erning appointments in the competitive service, and

1       to fix their compensation in accordance with the pro-  
2       visions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53  
3       of such title relating to classification and General  
4       Schedule pay rates.

5               (7) To obligate and expend, for official reception  
6       and representation expenses, such amounts as may be  
7       made available through appropriations Acts.

8               (8) To make available in the annual reports re-  
9       quired under section 103 information on funds ex-  
10      pended on administrative and managerial services by  
11      the Board of the United States Communications  
12      Agency, and the steps the Board has taken to reduce  
13      unnecessary overhead costs for each of the broad-  
14      casting services.

15              (9) To provide for the use of United States Gov-  
16      ernment broadcasting capacity to the Freedom News  
17      Network.

18              (10)(A) To procure temporary and intermittent  
19      personal services to the same extent as is authorized  
20      by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at rates  
21      not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate provided  
22      for positions classified above grade GS-15 of the Gen-  
23      eral Schedule under section 5108 of such title.

24              (B) To allow those individuals providing such  
25      services, while away from their homes or their regular

1        *places of business, travel expenses (including per diem*  
2        *in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by section 5703*  
3        *of title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Gov-*  
4        *ernment service employed intermittently, while so em-*  
5        *ployed.*

6                *(11) To utilize the provisions of titles III, IV, V,*  
7        *VII, VIII, IX, and X of the United States Information*  
8        *and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C.*  
9        *1431 et seq.), and section 6 of Reorganization Plan*  
10        *Number 2 of 1977, as in effect on the day before the*  
11        *effective date of title XIII of the Foreign Affairs Agen-*  
12        *cies Consolidation Act of 1998, to the extent the*  
13        *Board considers necessary to carry out the provisions*  
14        *and purposes of this Act.*

15                *(12) To utilize the authorities of any other stat-*  
16        *ute, reorganization plan, executive order, regulation,*  
17        *agreement, determination, or other official document*  
18        *or proceeding that had been available to the Director*  
19        *of the United States Information Agency, the Inter-*  
20        *national Broadcasting Bureau, or the Board of the*  
21        *Broadcasting Board of Governors before the date of*  
22        *the enactment of this Act.*

23                *(13)(A) To provide for the payment of primary*  
24        *and secondary school expenses for dependents of per-*  
25        *sonnel stationed in the Commonwealth of the North-*

1        *ern Mariana Islands (CNMI) at a cost not to exceed*  
2        *expenses authorized by the Department of Defense for*  
3        *such schooling for dependents of members of the*  
4        *Armed Forces stationed in the Commonwealth, if the*  
5        *Board determines that schools available in the Com-*  
6        *monwealth are unable to provide adequately for the*  
7        *education of the dependents of such personnel.*

8                *(B) To provide transportation for dependents of*  
9        *such personnel between their places of residence and*  
10        *those schools for which expenses are provided under*  
11        *subparagraph (A), if the Board determines that such*  
12        *schools are not accessible by public means of transpor-*  
13        *tation.*

14        *(b) CONSULTATIONS.—The Chief Executive Officer of*  
15        *the United States International Communications Agency*  
16        *shall regularly consult with the Chief Executive Officer of*  
17        *the Freedom News Network and the Secretary of State as*  
18        *described in sections 108 and 109.*

19        **SEC. 106. ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

20        *To assist the Board of the United States International*  
21        *Communications Agency in carrying out its functions, the*  
22        *Secretary of State shall provide to the Board information*  
23        *in accordance with section 109(b), as well as guidance on*  
24        *United States foreign policy and public diplomacy prior-*  
25        *ities, as the Secretary determines appropriate.*



1 **SEC. 107. ROLE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

2       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Inspector General of the De-*  
 3 *partment of State shall exercise the same authorities with*  
 4 *respect to the United States International Communications*  
 5 *Agency and the Freedom News Network as the Inspector*  
 6 *General exercises with respect to the Department.*

7       (b) *JOURNALIST INTEGRITY.*—*The Inspector General*  
 8 *of the Department of State shall respect the journalistic in-*  
 9 *tegrity of all the broadcasters covered by this Act and may*  
 10 *not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives re-*  
 11 *flected in the content of the broadcasts of such broadcasters.*

12 **SEC. 108. ENHANCED COORDINATION BETWEEN UNITED**  
 13 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 14 **AGENCY AND THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK;**  
 15 **PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING; GRANTEE**  
 16 **INDEPENDENCE.**

17       (a) *MEETINGS.*—*The chair of the Board and Chief Ex-*  
 18 *ecutive Officer of the United States International Commu-*  
 19 *nications Agency shall meet at least on a quarterly basis*  
 20 *with the chair and Chief Executive Officer, as identified*  
 21 *in section 221, of the Freedom News Network to discuss mu-*  
 22 *tual issues of concern, including the following:*

23               (1) *The strategic direction of their respective or-*  
 24 *ganizations, including target audiences.*

25               (2) *Languages of information transmission.*

26               (3) *Prioritization of funding allocations.*

1           (4) *Areas for greater collaboration.*

2           (5) *Elimination of programming overlap.*

3           (6) *Efficiencies that can be realized through best*  
4           *practices and lessons learned.*

5           (7) *Sharing of program content.*

6           (b) *INFORMATION SHARING.—The Chief Executive Of-*  
7           *ficer of the United States International Broadcasting Agen-*  
8           *cy and the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News Net-*  
9           *work shall share all strategic planning documents, includ-*  
10          *ing the following:*

11           (1) *Results monitoring and evaluation.*

12           (2) *Annual planning documents.*

13           (3) *Audience surveys conducted.*

14           (4) *Budget formulation documents.*

15          (c) *PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING.—The United States*  
16          *International Communications Agency and the Freedom*  
17          *News Network shall make all original content available to*  
18          *each other through a shared platform in accordance with*  
19          *section 112(a)(3).*

20          (d) *INDEPENDENCE OF FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—*  
21          *The United States International Communications Agency,*  
22          *while conducting management of the grant described in sec-*  
23          *tion 110, shall avoid even the appearance of involvement*  
24          *in daily operations, decisions, and management of the Free-*  
25          *dom News Network, and ensure that the distinctions be-*

1 *tween the United States International Communications*  
 2 *Agency and Freedom News Network remain in accordance*  
 3 *with this Act.*

4 **SEC. 109. ENHANCED COORDINATION AMONG THE UNITED**  
 5 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 6 **AGENCY, THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK,**  
 7 **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; FREEDOM**  
 8 **NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.**

9 (a) *COORDINATION MEETINGS.*—*The Chief Executive*  
 10 *Officer of the United States International Communications*  
 11 *Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News*  
 12 *Network shall meet, at least on a quarterly basis, with the*  
 13 *Secretary of State to—*

- 14 (1) *review and evaluate broadcast activities;*  
 15 (2) *eliminate overlap of programming; and*  
 16 (3) *determine long-term strategies for inter-*  
 17 *national broadcasting to ensure such strategies are in*  
 18 *accordance with the broad foreign policy interests of*  
 19 *the United States.*

20 (b) *STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS.*—*The Chief*  
 21 *Executive Officer of the United States International Com-*  
 22 *munications Agency, the Chief Executive Officer of the Free-*  
 23 *dom News Network, and the Secretary of State shall share*  
 24 *all relevant unclassified strategic planning documents pro-*

1 *duced by the Agency, the Freedom News Network, and the*  
 2 *Department of State.*

3 *(c) FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.—The*  
 4 *Department of State, while coordinating with the Freedom*  
 5 *News Network in accordance with subsection (a), shall*  
 6 *avoid even the appearance of involvement in the daily oper-*  
 7 *ations, decisions, and management of the Freedom News*  
 8 *Network.*

9 **SEC. 110. GRANTS TO THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

10 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the*  
 11 *United States International Communications Agency shall*  
 12 *make grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,*  
 13 *or the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated*  
 14 *only after the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and*  
 15 *the Chief Executive Officer of Freedom News Network cer-*  
 16 *tify to the appropriate congressional committees that the*  
 17 *headquarters of the Freedom News Network and its senior*  
 18 *administrative and managerial staff are in a location*  
 19 *which ensures economy, operational effectiveness, and ac-*  
 20 *countability, and the following conditions have been satis-*  
 21 *fied:*

22 *(1) RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,*  
 23 *and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-*  
 24 *porated have submitted to the Chief Executive Officer*  
 25 *of the United States International Communications*

1       *Agency a plan for consolidation and reconstitution as*  
2       *described in section 211 under the new corporate*  
3       *name “Freedom News Network” with a single organi-*  
4       *zational structure and management framework, as de-*  
5       *scribed in section 221.*

6               *(2) The necessary steps towards the consolidation*  
7       *described in paragraph (1) have been completed, in-*  
8       *cluding the selection of a Board, Chair, and Chief Ex-*  
9       *ecutive Officer for the Freedom News Network, the es-*  
10       *tablishment of bylaws to govern the Freedom News*  
11       *Network, and the filing of articles of incorporation.*

12               *(3) A plan for content sharing has been devel-*  
13       *oped in accordance with section 112(a)(3).*

14               *(4) A strategic plan for programming implemen-*  
15       *tation has been developed in accordance with section*  
16       *222(c).*

17       *(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date*  
18       *of the enactment of this Act, the Board of the United States*  
19       *International Communications Agency shall submit to Con-*  
20       *gress a report on the status of any grants made to the Free-*  
21       *dom News Network.*

22       *(c) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total*  
23       *amount of grants made for the operating costs of the Free-*  
24       *dom News Network may not exceed \$270,000,000 in fiscal*  
25       *year 2015.*

1       (d) *ALTERNATIVE GRANTEE.*—If the Chief Executive  
2 Officer of the United States International Communications  
3 Agency, after consultation with the Board of the Agency  
4 and the appropriate congressional committees, determines  
5 at any time that the Freedom News Network is not carrying  
6 out the mission described in section 212 and adhering to  
7 the standards and principles described in section 213 in  
8 an effective and economical manner for which a grant has  
9 been awarded, the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency,  
10 upon approval of the Board, may award to another entity  
11 the grant at issue to carry out such functions after soliciting  
12 and considering applications from eligible entities in such  
13 manner and accompanied by such information as the  
14 Board may require.

15       (e) *NOT A FEDERAL ENTITY.*—Nothing in this Act  
16 may be construed to make the Freedom News Network a  
17 Federal agency or instrumentality.

18       (f) *AUTHORITY.*—Grants authorized under this section  
19 for the United States International Communications Agen-  
20 cy shall be available to make annual grants to the Freedom  
21 News Network for the purpose of carrying out the mission  
22 described in section 212 and adhering to the standards and  
23 principles described in section 213.

24       (g) *GRANT AGREEMENT.*—Grants authorized under  
25 this section to the Freedom News Network by the Chief Exec-

1 *utive Officer of the United States International Commu-*  
2 *nications Agency shall only be made in accordance with*  
3 *a grant agreement. Such grant agreement shall include the*  
4 *following provisions:*

5           (1) *A grant shall be used only for activities in*  
6 *accordance with carrying out the mission described in*  
7 *section 212 and adhering to the standards and prin-*  
8 *ciples described in section 213.*

9           (2) *The Freedom News Network shall comply*  
10 *with the requirements of this section.*

11           (3) *Failure to comply with the requirements of*  
12 *this section may result in suspension or termination*  
13 *of a grant without further obligation by the United*  
14 *States International Communications Agency or the*  
15 *United States.*

16           (4) *Use of broadcasting technology owned and*  
17 *operated by the United States International Commu-*  
18 *nications Agency shall be made available through an*  
19 *International Cooperative Administrative Support*  
20 *Service (ICASS) agreement or memorandum of un-*  
21 *derstanding.*

22           (5) *The Freedom News Network shall, upon re-*  
23 *quest, provide to the Chief Executive Officer of the*  
24 *United States International Communications Agency*

1       *documentation which details the expenditure of any*  
 2       *grant funds.*

3               *(6) A grant may not be used to require the Free-*  
 4       *dom News Network to comply with any requirements*  
 5       *other than the requirements specified in this Act.*

6               *(7) A grant may not be used to allocate resources*  
 7       *within the Freedom News Network in a manner that*  
 8       *is inconsistent with the Freedom News Network stra-*  
 9       *tegic plan described in section 222(c).*

10       *(h) PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF GRANTS.—Grants*  
 11       *authorized under this section may not be used for the fol-*  
 12       *lowing purposes:*

13               *(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B)*  
 14       *or (C), to pay any salary or other compensation, or*  
 15       *enter into any contract providing for the payment of*  
 16       *salary or compensation, in excess of the rates estab-*  
 17       *lished for comparable positions under title 5, United*  
 18       *States Code, or the foreign relations laws of the*  
 19       *United States, except that no employee may be paid*  
 20       *a salary or other compensation in excess of the rate*  
 21       *of pay payable for level II of the Executive Schedule*  
 22       *under section 5315 of such title.*

23               *(B) Salary and other compensation limitations*  
 24       *under subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect*  
 25       *to any employee covered by a union agreement requir-*



1        *ing a salary or other compensation in excess of such*  
2        *limitations before the date of the enactment of this*  
3        *Act.*

4            *(C) Notwithstanding the limitations specified in*  
5        *subparagraph (A), grants authorized under this sec-*  
6        *tion may be used by the Freedom News Network to*  
7        *pay up to six employees employed in the Washington,*  
8        *D.C. area, salary or other compensation not to exceed*  
9        *the rate of pay payable for level I of the Executive*  
10       *Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States*  
11       *Code, except that such shall not apply to the Chief*  
12       *Executive Officer of the Freedom News Network in ac-*  
13       *cordance with section 221(d).*

14           *(2) For any activity intended to influence the*  
15       *passage or defeat of legislation being considered by*  
16       *Congress.*

17           *(3) To enter into a contract or obligation to pay*  
18       *severance payments for voluntary separation for em-*  
19       *ployees hired after December 1, 1990, except as may*  
20       *be required by United States law or the laws of the*  
21       *country where such an employee is stationed.*

22           *(4) For first class travel for any employee of the*  
23       *Freedom News Network, or the relative of any such*  
24       *employee.*

1 **SEC. 111. OTHER PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION LIMITA-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the organizational and  
4 personnel restrictions described in subsection (c), the Chief  
5 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
6 munications Agency shall have the discretion to determine  
7 the distribution of all personnel within the Agency, subject  
8 to the approval of the Board of the Agency.

9 (b) *LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.*—

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—No employee of the United  
11 States International Communications Agency, other  
12 than the Chief Executive Officer or Director of the  
13 Voice of America, shall be eligible to receive com-  
14 pensation at a rate in excess of step 10 of GS-15 of  
15 the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5,  
16 United States Code.

17 (2) *EXCEPTION.*—The limitation described in  
18 paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of members  
19 of the Board in accordance with section 102(d) or af-  
20 fect the rights of employees covered under the Fair  
21 Labor Standards Act of 1938.

22 (c) *PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN NEW EMPLOYMENT.*—

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Beginning on the date of the  
24 enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is  
25 five years after such date, the United States Inter-  
26 national Communications Agency may not fill any

1       *currently unfilled full-time or part-time position com-*  
2       *pensated at an annual rate of basic pay for grade*  
3       *GS-14 or GS-15 of the General Schedule under sec-*  
4       *tion 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including*  
5       *any currently filled position in which the incumbent*  
6       *resigns, retires, or otherwise leaves such position dur-*  
7       *ing the such five year period.*

8               (2) *WAIVER.—The Chief Executive Officer of the*  
9       *United States International Communications Agency*  
10       *may waive the prohibition specified in paragraph (1)*  
11       *if the position is determined essential to the func-*  
12       *tioning of the Agency and documented as such in the*  
13       *report required under section 112(a), or necessary for*  
14       *the acquisition of skills or knowledge not sufficiently*  
15       *represented in the current workforce of the Agency.*  
16       *The Chief Executive Officer of the Agency shall con-*  
17       *sult with the appropriate congressional committees*  
18       *before issuing a waiver under this paragraph.*

19       (d) *CONTINUATION OF FEDERAL STATUS.—Nothing in*  
20       *this Act may be interpreted to change the Federal status*  
21       *or rights of employees of the Voice of America or the Inter-*  
22       *national Broadcasting Bureau by the consolidation and es-*  
23       *tablishment of the United States International Communica-*  
24       *tions Agency.*

1 **SEC. 112. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED**  
2 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
3 **AGENCY.**

4 (a) *REORGANIZATION REPORT*.—Not later than 180  
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief  
6 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
7 munications Agency shall submit to the appropriate Con-  
8 gressional committees a report that includes the following:

9 (1) *A plan to assess and provide recommenda-*  
10 *tions on the appropriate size and necessity of all cur-*  
11 *rent offices and positions (also referred to as a “staff-*  
12 *ing pattern”)* within the Agency, including full-time  
13 employee positions rated at the Senior Executive  
14 Service (SES) level or at GS-14 or GS-15 on the Gen-  
15 eral Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United  
16 States Code. Such plan shall include a detailed orga-  
17 nizational structure that delineates lines of authority  
18 and reporting between junior staff, management, and  
19 leadership.

20 (2) *A plan to consolidate the Voice of America*  
21 *and the International Broadcasting Bureau into a*  
22 *single Federal entity identified as the “United States*  
23 *International Communications Agency”, and how the*  
24 *structure and alignment of resources support the ful-*  
25 *fillment of the Agency’s mission and standards and*  
26 *principles as described in sections 5 and 122.*

1           (3) *A plan for developing a platform to share all*  
2           *programming content between the United States*  
3           *International Communications Agency and the Free-*  
4           *dom News Network, including making available for*  
5           *distribution all programming content licensed or pro-*  
6           *duced by the Agency and the Freedom News Network,*  
7           *and expanding the functionality of the platforms al-*  
8           *ready in existence, such as the web content manage-*  
9           *ment system “Pangea”.*

10          (4) *A joint plan written with the Chief Executive*  
11          *Officer of the Freedom News Network to coordinate*  
12          *the transition of language services between the United*  
13          *States International Communications Agency and the*  
14          *Freedom News Network in accordance with sections 6,*  
15          *123, 124, 212, and 213.*

16          (b) *CONTRACTING REPORT.—The Chief Executive Offi-*  
17          *cer of the United States International Communications*  
18          *Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate congres-*  
19          *sional committees a report on the Agency’s compliance with*  
20          *the Federal Acquisition Regulation (the “FAR”) and the*  
21          *Anti-Deficiency Act, including a review of contracts award-*  
22          *ed on a non-competitive basis, compliance with the FAR*  
23          *requirement for publicizing contract actions, the use of any*  
24          *personal service contracts without explicit statutory author-*

1 *ity, and processes for contract oversight in compliance with*  
2 *the FAR.*

3       (c) *LISTENERSHIP REPORT.*—*The Chief Executive Of-*  
4 *ficer of the United States International Communications*  
5 *Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate congres-*  
6 *sional committees a report that details the transmission ca-*  
7 *pacities, market penetration, and audience listenership of*  
8 *all mediums of international communication deployed by*  
9 *the United States International Communications Agency,*  
10 *including a plan for how target audiences can be reached*  
11 *if the first medium of delivery is unavailable.*

12       (d) *GAO REPORT.*—*Every five years after the date of*  
13 *the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the*  
14 *United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional*  
15 *committees a report that reviews the effectiveness of content*  
16 *sharing between the United States International Commu-*  
17 *nications Agency and the Freedom News Network and*  
18 *makes recommendations on how content sharing can be im-*  
19 *proved.*

20       (e) *LANGUAGE REPORT.*—*Not later than one year after*  
21 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive*  
22 *Officer of the United States International Communications*  
23 *Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News*  
24 *Network shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-*  
25 *mittees a joint report detailing—*

1           (1) *information outlining the criteria and anal-*  
 2           *ysis used to determine broadcast recipient countries*  
 3           *and regions; and*

4           (2) *an initial list of broadcast countries and re-*  
 5           *gions.*

## 6       ***Subtitle B—The Voice of America***

### 7       ***SEC. 121. SENSE OF CONGRESS.***

8           *It is the sense of Congress that—*

9           (1) *the Voice of America has been an indispen-*  
 10          *sable element of United States foreign policy and pub-*  
 11          *lic diplomacy efforts since 1942, and should remain*  
 12          *the flagship brand of the United States International*  
 13          *Communications Agency;*

14          (2) *the Voice of America has been a reliable*  
 15          *source of accurate, objective, and comprehensive news*  
 16          *and related programming and content for the mil-*  
 17          *lions of people around the world who cannot obtain*  
 18          *such news and related programming and content from*  
 19          *indigenous media outlets;*

20          (3) *the Voice of America’s success over more than*  
 21          *seven decades has created valuable brand identity and*  
 22          *international recognition that justifies the mainte-*  
 23          *nance of the Voice of America;*

24          (4) *the Voice of America’s public diplomacy mis-*  
 25          *sion remains essential to broader United States Gov-*

1        *ernment efforts to communicate with foreign popu-*  
2        *lations; and*

3                *(5) despite its tremendous historical success, the*  
4        *Voice of America would benefit substantially from a*  
5        *recalibration of Federal international broadcasting*  
6        *agencies and resources, which would provide the Voice*  
7        *of America with greater mission focus and flexibility*  
8        *in the deployment of news, programming, and con-*  
9        *tent.*

10    **SEC. 122. PRINCIPLES OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA.**

11        *The Voice of America shall adhere to the following*  
12        *principles in the course of fulfilling its duties and respon-*  
13        *sibilities:*

14                *(1) Serving as a consistently reliable and au-*  
15        *thoritative source of news on the United States, its*  
16        *policies, its people, and the international develop-*  
17        *ments that affect the United States.*

18                *(2) Providing accurate, objective, and com-*  
19        *prehensive information, with the understanding that*  
20        *these three values provide credibility among global*  
21        *news audiences.*

22                *(3) Presenting the official policies of the United*  
23        *States, and related discussions and opinions about*  
24        *those policies, clearly and effectively.*



1           (4) *Representing the whole of the United States,*  
2           *and shall accordingly work to produce programming*  
3           *and content that presents a balanced and comprehen-*  
4           *sive projection of the diversity of thought and institu-*  
5           *tions of the United States.*

6   **SEC. 123. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOICE OF**  
7           **AMERICA.**

8           *The Voice of America shall have the following duties*  
9           *and responsibilities:*

10           (1) *Producing accurate, objective, and com-*  
11           *prehensive news and related programming that is*  
12           *consistent with and promotes the broad foreign poli-*  
13           *cies of the United States.*

14           (2) *Producing news and related programming*  
15           *and content that accurately represents the diversity of*  
16           *thoughts and institutions of the United States as a*  
17           *whole.*

18           (3) *Presenting the law and policies of the United*  
19           *States clearly and effectively.*

20           (4) *Promoting the civil and responsible exchange*  
21           *of information and differences of opinion regarding*  
22           *policies, issues, and current events.*

23           (5) *Making all of its produced news and related*  
24           *programming and content available to the Freedom*  
25           *News Network for use and distribution.*

1           (6) *Producing or otherwise allowing editorials,*  
2           *commentary, and programming, in consultation with*  
3           *the Department of State, that present the official*  
4           *views of the United States Government and its offi-*  
5           *cials.*

6           (7) *Maximizing foreign national information ac-*  
7           *cess through both the use of existing broadcasting tools*  
8           *and resources and the development and dissemination*  
9           *of circumvention technology.*

10          (8) *Providing training and technical support for*  
11          *independent indigenous media and journalist enter-*  
12          *prises in order to facilitate or enhance independent*  
13          *media environments and outlets abroad.*

14          (9) *Reaching identified foreign audiences in*  
15          *local languages and dialects when possible, particu-*  
16          *larly when such audiences form a distinct ethnic, cul-*  
17          *tural, or religious group within a country critical to*  
18          *United States national security interests.*

19          (10) *Being capable of providing a broadcasting*  
20          *surge capacity under circumstances where overseas*  
21          *disasters, crises, or other events require increased or*  
22          *heightened international public diplomacy engage-*  
23          *ment.*

1 **SEC. 124. LIMITATION ON VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS, PRO-**  
 2 **GRAMMING, AND CONTENT; EXCEPTION FOR**  
 3 **BROADCASTING TO CUBA.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in subsection*  
 5 *(b), the Voice of America shall be limited to providing re-*  
 6 *porting in accordance with the principles specified in sec-*  
 7 *tion 122. Nothing in this section may preclude the Voice*  
 8 *of America from broadcasting programming content pro-*  
 9 *duced by the Freedom News Network.*

10 (b) *EXCEPTION FOR BROADCASTING TO CUBA.*—*Radio*  
 11 *Marti and Television Marti, which constitute the Office of*  
 12 *Cuba Broadcasting, shall continue programming and con-*  
 13 *tent production consistent with the mission and activities*  
 14 *as described in the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act (Public*  
 15 *Law 98–111) and the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act*  
 16 *(Public Law 101–246), and continue existing within the*  
 17 *Voice of America of the United States International Com-*  
 18 *munications Agency, established in section 101.*

19 **SEC. 125. DIRECTOR OF VOICE OF AMERICA.**

20 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*There shall be a Director of the*  
 21 *Voice of America, who shall be responsible for executing the*  
 22 *duties and responsibilities of the Voice of America described*  
 23 *in subsection (b).*

24 (b) *DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.*—*The Director of*  
 25 *the Voice of America shall, subject to the final approval of*  
 26 *the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-*

1 *national Communications Agency carry out the following*  
2 *duties and responsibilities:*

3           (1) *Determine the organizational structure of,*  
4 *and personnel allocation or relocation within, the*  
5 *Voice of America, subject to section 105.*

6           (2) *Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-*  
7 *tive Officer of the United States International Com-*  
8 *munications Agency regarding the production, devel-*  
9 *opment, and termination of Voice of America news*  
10 *programming and content.*

11           (3) *Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-*  
12 *tive Officer of the United States International Com-*  
13 *munications Agency about the establishment, termi-*  
14 *nation, prioritization, and adjustments of language*  
15 *services utilized by the Voice of America to reach its*  
16 *international audience.*

17           (4) *Allocate funding and material resources*  
18 *under the jurisdiction of the Voice of America for the*  
19 *furtherance of the other duties and responsibilities es-*  
20 *tablished under this subsection.*

21           (5) *Oversee the daily operations of the Voice of*  
22 *America, including programming content.*

23           (c) *APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIREC-*  
24 *TOR.—*

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The position of Director of the*  
2           *Voice of America shall be filled by a person who shall*  
3           *serve at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Officer of*  
4           *the United States International Communications*  
5           *Agency.*

6           (2) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*To be eligible to be appointed*  
7           *Director of the Voice of America, a person shall have*  
8           *at least two of the following qualifications:*

9                   (A) *Prior, extensive experience managing or*  
10                  *operating a private-sector media or journalist*  
11                  *enterprise.*

12                  (B) *Prior, extensive experience managing or*  
13                  *operating a large organization.*

14                  (C) *Prior, extensive experience engaged in*  
15                  *mass media or journalist program development,*  
16                  *including the development of circumvention tech-*  
17                  *nologies.*

18                  (D) *Prior, extensive experience engaged in*  
19                  *international journalism or other related activi-*  
20                  *ties, including the training of international jour-*  
21                  *nalists and the promotion of democratic institu-*  
22                  *tional reforms abroad.*

23           (3) *COMPENSATION.*—*Any Director who is hired*  
24           *after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be en-*  
25           *titled to receive compensation at a rate equal to the*

1        *annual rate of basic pay for level III of the Executive*  
 2        *Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States*  
 3        *Code.*

## 4        ***Subtitle C—General Provisions***

### 5        ***SEC. 131. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION IN SUPPORT*** 6        ***OF UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.***

7        *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United States*  
 8        *International Communications Agency and the Freedom*  
 9        *News Network shall conduct periodic, unclassified consulta-*  
 10       *tions with the Department of State, the United States Agen-*  
 11       *cy for International Development, the Department of De-*  
 12       *fense, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence,*  
 13       *for the purpose of assessing the following:*

14                *(1) Progress toward democratization, the devel-*  
 15        *opment of free and independent media outlets, and*  
 16        *the free flow of information in countries that receive*  
 17        *programming and content from the United States*  
 18        *International Communications Agency and the Free-*  
 19        *dom News Network.*

20                *(2) Foreign languages that have increased or de-*  
 21        *creased in strategic importance, and the factors sup-*  
 22        *porting such assessments.*

23                *(3) Any other international developments, in-*  
 24        *cluding developments with regional or country-spe-*  
 25        *cific significance, that might be of value in assisting*

1        *the United States International Communications*  
2        *Agency and the Freedom News Network in the devel-*  
3        *opment of their programming and content.*

4        *(b) GUIDANCE.—The Board of the United States Inter-*  
5        *national Communications Agency shall use the unclassified*  
6        *consultations required under subsection (a) as guidance for*  
7        *its distribution and calibration of Federal resources in sup-*  
8        *port of United States public diplomacy.*

9        **SEC. 132. FEDERAL AGENCY ASSISTANCE AND COORDINA-**  
10                **TION WITH THE UNITED STATES INTER-**  
11                **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY AND**  
12                **THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK DURING**  
13                **INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST SURGES.**

14        *(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to a formal request from*  
15        *the Chair of the Board of the United States International*  
16        *Communications Agency, Federal agency heads shall assist*  
17        *and coordinate with the Agency to facilitate a temporary*  
18        *broadcasting surge or enhance transmission capacity for*  
19        *such a temporary broadcasting surge for the Agency, the*  
20        *Freedom News Network, or both.*

21        *(b) ACTIONS.—In accordance with subsection (a), Fed-*  
22        *eral agency heads shall assist or coordinate with the United*  
23        *States International Communications Agency by—*

24                *(1) supplying or facilitating access to, or use*  
25        *of—*

1           (A) *United States Government-owned trans-*  
2           *mission capacity, including the use of trans-*  
3           *mission facilities, equipment, resources, and per-*  
4           *sonnel; and*

5           (B) *other non-transmission-related United*  
6           *States Government-owned facilities, equipment,*  
7           *resources, and personnel;*

8           (2) *communicating and coordinating with for-*  
9           *ign host governments on behalf of, or in conjunction*  
10          *with, the Agency or the Freedom News Network;*

11          (3) *providing, or assisting in the obtaining of,*  
12          *in-country security services for the safety and protec-*  
13          *tion of Agency or Freedom News Network personnel;*  
14          *and*

15          (4) *providing or facilitating access to any other*  
16          *United States Government-owned resources.*

17          (c) *PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-*  
18          *sion of law, neither Federal agency heads nor their agencies*  
19          *shall receive any reimbursement or compensatory appro-*  
20          *priations for complying with implementing this section.*



1 **SEC. 133. FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK RIGHT OF FIRST RE-**  
2 **FUSAL IN INSTANCES OF FEDERAL DISPOSAL**  
3 **OF RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCAST**  
4 **TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OR EQUIPMENT.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
6 sion of law, it shall be the policy of the United States Inter-  
7 national Communications Agency to, in the event it intends  
8 to dispose of any radio or television broadcast transmission  
9 facilities or equipment, provide the Freedom News Network  
10 with the right of first refusal with respect to the acquisition  
11 of such facilities and equipment.

12 (b) *TRANSFER AND DISPOSAL.*—Pursuant to sub-  
13 section (a)—

14 (1) *in the event the Freedom News Network is*  
15 *willing to accept the facilities and equipment referred*  
16 *to in such subsection, the United States International*  
17 *Communications Agency shall transfer to the Freedom*  
18 *News Network such facilities and equipment at no*  
19 *cost to the Freedom News Network; or*

20 (2) *in the event the Freedom News Network opts*  
21 *to not accept such facilities and equipment, the*  
22 *United States International Communications Agency*  
23 *may sell such facilities and equipment at market*  
24 *price, and retain any revenue from such sales.*

25 (c) *RULES REGARDING CERTAIN FUNDS.*—Pursuant  
26 *to subsections (b) and (c), any revenues that the United*

1 *States International Communications Agency shall derive*  
 2 *from such sales—*

3 *(1) shall not negatively impact subsequent ap-*  
 4 *propriations to the Agency, and*

5 *(2) shall be used entirely for the purposes or re-*  
 6 *search, development, and deployment of innovative*  
 7 *broadcasting or circumvention technology.*

8 **SEC. 134. REPEAL OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
 9 **BROADCASTING ACT OF 1994.**

10 *The United States International Broadcasting Act of*  
 11 *1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.; title III of Public Law 103–*  
 12 *236) is repealed (and the items relating to title III in the*  
 13 *table of contents of such Public Law are struck).*

14 **SEC. 135. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 *This title shall take effect on the date that is 180 days*  
 16 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

17 **TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS**  
 18 **NETWORK**

19 **SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 *It is the sense of Congress that RFE/RL, Incorporated,*  
 21 *Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-*  
 22 *works, Incorporated share a common mission with distinct*  
 23 *geographic foci, and should therefore be merged into a single*  
 24 *organization, with distinct marketing brands to provide the*

1 *news and related programming and content in countries*  
 2 *where free media are not established.*

3           ***Subtitle A—Consolidation of***  
 4           ***Existing Grantee Organizations***

5   ***SEC. 211. FORMATION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK***  
 6                           ***FROM EXISTING GRANTEES.***

7           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—When the conditions specified in  
 8 *section 110 are satisfied, the Freedom News Network, com-*  
 9 *prised of the consolidation of RFE/RL Incorporated, Radio*  
 10 *Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, In-*  
 11 *corporated, shall exist to carry out all international broad-*  
 12 *casting activities supported by the United States Govern-*  
 13 *ment, in accordance with sections 212 and 213.*

14          (b) *MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING INDIVIDUAL*  
 15 *GRANTEE BRANDS.*—RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free  
 16 Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
 17 porated shall remain brand names under which news and  
 18 related programming and content may be disseminated by  
 19 the Freedom News Network. Additional brands may be cre-  
 20 ated as necessary.

21   ***SEC. 212. MISSION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.***

22           *The Freedom News Network established under section*  
 23 *211 shall—*

1           (1) *provide uncensored local and regional news*  
 2           *and analysis to people in societies where a robust, in-*  
 3           *igenous, independent, and free media does not exist;*

4           (2) *strengthen civil societies by promoting demo-*  
 5           *cratic values and promoting equality and the rights*  
 6           *of the individual, including for marginalized groups,*  
 7           *such as women and minorities;*

8           (3) *help countries improve their indigenous ca-*  
 9           *capacity to enhance media professionalism and inde-*  
 10          *pendence, and develop partnerships with local media*  
 11          *outlets, as appropriate; and*

12          (4) *promote access to uncensored sources of infor-*  
 13          *mation, especially via the internet, and use all effec-*  
 14          *tive and efficient mediums of communication to reach*  
 15          *target audiences.*

16 **SEC. 213. STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE FREEDOM**  
 17 **NEWS NETWORK.**

18          *The broadcasting of the Freedom News Network shall—*

19               (1) *be consistent with the broad foreign policy*  
 20               *objectives of the United States;*

21               (2) *be consistent with the international tele-*  
 22               *communications policies and treaty obligations of the*  
 23               *United States;*

24               (3) *be conducted in accordance with the highest*  
 25               *professional standards of broadcast journalism;*

1           (4) be based on reliable information about its po-  
2           tential audience;

3           (5) be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-  
4           nificant audience; and

5           (6) prioritize programming to populations in  
6           countries without independent indigenous media out-  
7           lets.

8           ***Subtitle B—Organization of the***  
9           ***Freedom News Network***

10       ***SEC. 221. GOVERNANCE OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.***

11       (a) *BOARD OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.*—A  
12       board shall oversee the Freedom News Network and consist  
13       of nine individuals with a demonstrated background in  
14       media or the promotion of democracy and experience in  
15       measuring media impact.

16       (b) *COMPOSITION OF FIRST BOARD OF THE FREEDOM*  
17       *NEWS NETWORK.*—Not later than 90 days after the date  
18       of the enactment of this Act, the Chairs and Ranking Mem-  
19       bers of the appropriate congressional committees shall iden-  
20       tify candidates for the first board of the Freedom News Net-  
21       work, direct the appointment of board members, and select  
22       the first chair of the board of the Freedom News Network  
23       as follows:

1           (1) *Two individuals shall be appointed by the*  
 2           *Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the*  
 3           *House of Representatives.*

4           (2) *Two individuals shall be appointed by the*  
 5           *Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs*  
 6           *of the House of Representatives.*

7           (3) *Two individuals shall be appointed by the*  
 8           *Chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the*  
 9           *Senate.*

10          (4) *Two individuals shall be appointed by the*  
 11          *Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Rela-*  
 12          *tions of the Senate.*

13          (5) *One individual shall be appointed by con-*  
 14          *sensus of the Chairs and Ranking Members of the*  
 15          *Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-*  
 16          *resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations*  
 17          *of the Senate.*

18          (c) *OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST BOARD OF THE FREE-*  
 19          *DOM NEWS NETWORK.—*

20           (1) *IN GENERAL.—The board members of the*  
 21           *first board of the Freedom News Network shall deter-*  
 22           *mine the bylaws, select the Chief Executive Officer of*  
 23           *the Freedom News Network, and file articles of incor-*  
 24           *poration under the corporate name “Freedom News*  
 25           *Network”. The first board of the Freedom News Net-*

1        *work may change the organization’s name in accord-*  
2        *ance with such bylaws.*

3            (2) *TERM LIMITS.—The board members of the*  
4        *first board of the Freedom News Network may not*  
5        *serve more than a three-year term, and shall be re-*  
6        *placed in accordance with the bylaws referred to in*  
7        *paragraph (1) and the succession process described in*  
8        *paragraph (3).*

9            (3) *SUCCESSION OF BOARD MEMBERS.—The*  
10       *board members of the first board of the Freedom News*  
11       *Network and all subsequent boards shall fill vacancies*  
12       *on the board due to death, resignation, removal, or*  
13       *term expiration through an election process described*  
14       *in the bylaws referred to in paragraph (1) and in ac-*  
15       *cordance with the principle of a “self-replenishing”*  
16       *body.*

17          (d) *COMPENSATION OF BOARD AND OFFICERS OF THE*  
18       *FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—Members of the board of the*  
19       *Freedom News Network may not receive any fee, salary, or*  
20       *remuneration of any kind for their service as members, ex-*  
21       *cept that such members may be reimbursed for reasonable*  
22       *expenses, such as board-related travel, incurred with ap-*  
23       *proval of the board upon presentation of vouchers. No offi-*  
24       *cers of the Freedom News Network, other than the Chief Ex-*  
25       *ecutive Officer, shall be eligible to receive compensation at*

1 a rate in excess of the annual rate of basic pay for level  
2 II on the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,  
3 United States Code.

4 (e) *ABOLISHMENT OF EXISTING BOARDS.*—The boards  
5 of directors of RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and  
6 the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated in  
7 existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this  
8 Act shall be abolished on the date of the first official meeting  
9 of the first board of the Freedom News Network.

10 (f) *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.*—The Chief Executive  
11 Officer of the Freedom News Network shall serve at the  
12 pleasure of the board of the Freedom News Network, and  
13 be responsible for the day-to-day management and oper-  
14 ations of the Freedom News Network, including the selection  
15 of individuals for management positions. The board of the  
16 Freedom News Network may add to the duties and respon-  
17 sibilities of the Chief Executive Officer as the board deter-  
18 mines appropriate, and such additional duties and respon-  
19 sibilities shall be codified in the bylaws of the Freedom News  
20 Network.

21 (g) *PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING INDIVIDUAL*  
22 *GRANTEES.*—

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after  
24 the date of the first official meeting of the first board  
25 of the Freedom News Network, the chair of the board



1       of the Freedom News Network shall submit a report  
2       to, and consult with, the appropriate congressional  
3       committees on the plan to consolidate RFE/RL, In-  
4       corporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East  
5       Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated into a single  
6       non-Federal grantee organization.

7               (2) COMPONENTS.—The consolidation plan re-  
8       ferred to in paragraph (1) shall include the following  
9       components:

10               (A) The location and distribution of em-  
11       ployees, including administrative, managerial,  
12       and technical staff, of the Freedom News Network  
13       that will be located within and outside the met-  
14       ropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

15               (B) An organizational chart identifying the  
16       managerial and supervisory lines of authority  
17       among all employees of the Freedom News Net-  
18       work.

19               (3) TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than  
20       three years after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
21       the chair of the board of the Freedom News Network  
22       shall fully implement the consolidation plan referred  
23       to in paragraph (1) after consultation with the ap-  
24       propriate congressional committees.

1           (4) *REPORT.*—Not later than five years after the  
 2           date on which initial funding is provided for the pur-  
 3           pose of operating the Freedom News Network, the  
 4           chair of the board of the Freedom News Network shall  
 5           submit to the appropriate congressional committees a  
 6           report that details the following:

7                   (A) *Whether the Freedom News Network is*  
 8                   *technically sound and cost-effective.*

9                   (B) *Whether the Freedom News Network*  
 10                  *consistently meets the standards for quality and*  
 11                  *impact established by this title.*

12                  (C) *Whether the Freedom News Network is*  
 13                  *receiving a sufficient audience to warrant its*  
 14                  *continued operation.*

15                  (D) *The extent to which the Freedom News*  
 16                  *Network's programming and content is already*  
 17                  *being received by the target audience from other*  
 18                  *credible indigenous or external sources.*

19                  (E) *The extent to which the foreign policy*  
 20                  *and national security interests of the United*  
 21                  *States are being served by maintaining oper-*  
 22                  *ations of the Freedom News Network.*

23 **SEC. 222. BUDGET OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

24           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The annual budget of the Freedom  
 25           News Network shall consist of the following:

1           (1) *A grant described in section 110, consisting*  
2           *of the total grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio*  
3           *Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-*  
4           *works, Incorporated before the date of the enactment*  
5           *of this Act.*

6           (2) *Any grants or transfers from other Federal*  
7           *agencies.*

8           (3) *Other funds described in subsection (b).*

9           (b) *OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.—The Freedom*  
10          *News Network may, to the extent authorized by its board*  
11          *and in accordance with applicable laws and the mission*  
12          *of the Freedom News Network under section 212 and eligible*  
13          *broadcast areas under section 6, collect and utilize non-Fed-*  
14          *eral funds, except that the Freedom News Network may not*  
15          *accept funds from the following:*

16               (1) *Any foreign governments or foreign govern-*  
17               *ment officials.*

18               (2) *Any agents, representatives, or surrogates of*  
19               *any foreign government or foreign government offi-*  
20               *cial.*

21               (3) *Any foreign-owned corporations or any sub-*  
22               *sidaries of any foreign-owned corporation, regardless*  
23               *of whether such subsidiary is foreign-owned.*

1           (4) *Any foreign national or individual who is*  
2           *not either a citizen or a legal permanent resident of*  
3           *the United States.*

4           (c) *ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE FREEDOM NEWS*  
5           *NETWORK.—The Freedom News Network shall submit to the*  
6           *appropriate congressional committees and the United*  
7           *States International Communications Agency an annual*  
8           *strategic plan to satisfy the requirements specified in sec-*  
9           *tion 110. Each such strategic plan shall outline the fol-*  
10          *lowing:*

11           (1) *The strategic goals and objectives of the Free-*  
12          *dom News Network for the upcoming fiscal year.*

13           (2) *The alignment of the Freedom News Net-*  
14          *work's resources with the strategic goals and objectives*  
15          *referred to in paragraph (1).*

16           (3) *Clear benchmarks that establish the progress*  
17          *made towards achieving the strategic goals and objec-*  
18          *tives referred to in paragraph (1).*

19           (4) *A plan to monitor and evaluate the success*  
20          *of the Freedom News Network's broadcasting efforts.*

21           (5) *A reflective analysis on the activities on the*  
22          *past fiscal year.*

23           (6) *Any changes to facility leases, contracts, or*  
24          *ownership that would result in the relocation of staff*  
25          *or personnel.*

1       (d) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—*It is the sense of Congress*  
2 *that administrative and managerial costs for operation of*  
3 *the Freedom News Network should be kept to a minimum*  
4 *and, to the maximum extent feasible, should not exceed the*  
5 *costs that would have been incurred if RFE/RL, Incorporated,*  
6 *Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks,*  
7 *Incorporated had been operated as independent grantees or as a*  
8 *Federal entity within the Voice of America.*

10 **SEC. 223. ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGEN-**  
11 **CIES.**

12       (a) *SURPLUS PROPERTIES.*—*In order to assist the*  
13 *Freedom News Network in carrying out the provisions of*  
14 *this title, any agency or instrumentality of the United*  
15 *States may sell, loan, lease, or grant property (including*  
16 *interests therein) to the Freedom News Network as nec-*  
17 *essary.*

18       (b) *FACILITIES AND BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE.*—*The United States International Communications*  
19 *Agency and the Freedom News Network shall negotiate an*  
20 *International Cooperative Administrative Support Service*  
21 *(ICASS) agreement or memorandum of understanding per-*  
22 *mitting the continued use of technological infrastructure for*  
23 *broadcasting and information dissemination, except that*  
24 *the Freedom News Network may choose to procure such serv-*

1 ices through negotiated contracts with private-sector pro-  
2 viders.

3 **SEC. 224. REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR**  
4 **GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE;**  
5 **AUDITS BY GAO.**

6 (a) *IG REPORTS.*—*The Inspector General of the De-*  
7 *partment of State shall, as appropriate, submit to the ap-*  
8 *propriate congressional committees reports on management*  
9 *practices of the Freedom News Network, including financial*  
10 *reports on unobligated balances.*

11 (b) *GAO AUDITS.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Financial transactions of the*  
13 *Freedom News Network, as such relate to functions*  
14 *carried out under this Act, may be audited by the*  
15 *Government Accountability Office in accordance with*  
16 *such principles and procedures and under such rules*  
17 *and regulations as may be prescribed by the Comp-*  
18 *troller General of the United States. Any such audit*  
19 *shall be conducted at the place or places where ac-*  
20 *counts of the Freedom News Network are normally*  
21 *kept.*

22 (2) *ACCESS.*—*Representatives of the Government*  
23 *Accountability Office shall have access to all books,*  
24 *accounts, records, reports, files, papers, and property*  
25 *belonging to or in use by the Freedom News Network*

1        *pertaining to the financial transactions referred to in*  
 2        *paragraph (1) and necessary to facilitate an audit in*  
 3        *accordance with such paragraph. All such books, ac-*  
 4        *counts, records, reports, files, papers, and property of*  
 5        *the Freedom News Network shall remain in the pos-*  
 6        *session and custody of the Freedom News Network.*

7        *(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other*  
 8        *provision of law, one percent of the funds made available*  
 9        *by the United States International Communications Agen-*  
 10       *cy shall be transferred to the Inspector General of the De-*  
 11       *partment of State to cover the expenses of carrying out the*  
 12       *activities of the Inspector General under this section.*

13       **SEC. 225. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES INFORMA-**  
 14                                **TION AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF**  
 15                                **1948.**

16        *The United States Information and Educational Ex-*  
 17        *change Act of 1948 is amended—*

18                *(1) in title V (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.), by strik-*  
 19        *ing “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting*  
 20        *“United States International Communications Agen-*  
 21        *cy” each place it appears;*

22                *(2) by amending paragraph (1) of section 501(b)*  
 23        *(22 U.S.C. 1461(b)) to read as follows:*

24                *“(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Sec-*  
 25        *retary and the United States International Communica-*

1 *tions Agency may, upon request and reimbursement of the*  
 2 *reasonable costs incurred in fulfilling such a request, make*  
 3 *available, in the United States, motion pictures, films,*  
 4 *video, audio, and other materials disseminated abroad pur-*  
 5 *suant to this Act. Any reimbursement pursuant to this*  
 6 *paragraph shall be credited to the applicable appropriation*  
 7 *account of the Department of State or the United States*  
 8 *International Communications Agency, as appropriate.*  
 9 *The Secretary and the United States International Commu-*  
 10 *nications Agency shall issue necessary regulations.”;*

11 *(3) by repealing sections 504 and 505 (22 U.S.C.*  
 12 *1464 and 1464a);*

13 *(4) by redesignating section 506 (22 U.S.C.*  
 14 *1464b) as section 504;*

15 *(5) in section 504, as so redesignated, in sub-*  
 16 *section (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*  
 17 *striking “Board” each place it appears and inserting*  
 18 *“Agency”;*

19 *(6) in clause (iii) of section 604(d)(1)(A) (22*  
 20 *U.S.C. 1469(d)(1)(A)), by striking “Broadcasting*  
 21 *Board of Governors” and inserting “United States*  
 22 *International Communications Agency”;*

23 *(7) in paragraph (3) of section 801 (22 U.S.C.*  
 24 *1471), by striking “Director of the United States In-*  
 25 *formation Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive*



1       *Officer of the United States International Commu-*  
2       *nications Agency”;*

3               *(8) in subsection (b) of section 802 (22 U.S.C.*  
4       *1472)—*

5               *(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “Di-*  
6       *rector of the United States Information Agency”*  
7       *and inserting “Chief Executive Officer of the*  
8       *United States International Communications*  
9       *Agency”;* and

10              *(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking*  
11       *“Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-*  
12       *ing “United States International Communica-*  
13       *tions Agency”;* and

14              *(9) in paragraph (1) of section 804 (22 U.S.C.*  
15       *1474), by striking “Director of the United States In-*  
16       *formation Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive*  
17       *Officer of the United States International Commu-*  
18       *nications Agency”;*

19              *(10) in section 810(b) (22 U.S.C. 1475e(b))—*

20              *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),*  
21       *by striking “United States Information Agency”*  
22       *and inserting “United States International Com-*  
23       *munications Agency”;* and

24              *(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Inter-*  
25       *national Broadcasting Bureau” and inserting*

1           *“United States International Communications*  
2           *Agency”*; and  
3           *(11) in subsection (a) of section 1011 (22 U.S.C.*  
4           *1442), by striking “Director of the United States In-*  
5           *formation Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive*  
6           *Officer of the United States International Commu-*  
7           *nications Agency”.*

8           ***TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS***  
9           ***PROVISIONS***

10       ***SEC. 301. PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL SE-***  
11       ***CURITY OBJECTIVES.***

12       *The Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-*  
13       *national Communications Agency and the Chief Executive*  
14       *Officer of the Freedom News Network shall each establish*  
15       *procedures to vet and monitor employees of each such agen-*  
16       *cy for affiliations to terrorist organizations, foreign govern-*  
17       *ments, or agents of foreign governments to protect against*  
18       *espionage, sabotage, foreign propaganda messaging, and*  
19       *other subversive activities that undermine United States*  
20       *national security objectives.*



Union Calendar No. 407

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> Session

**H. R. 4490**

[Report No. 113-541]

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# A BILL

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

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JULY 18, 2014

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed